The Bodkin was cut out of her Bladder that day nine weeks that ſhe ſwallow'd it. There was but half of the Bodkin in the Bladder, which was incruſtrated with a gravelly calculous matter, as appears in the adjoining figure. A the head or blunt end of the Bodkin, from A to B the half which was in the Bladder with its Cruſt: from B to C the part which was out of the Bladder in the *Pelvis*, the point reſting upon the *Iſchium*. *Vid.* Fig. 7.

IV. *A Diſcourſe of the Viper, and ſome other Poyſons, wrote by Sir* Theodore de Mayerne, *after ſome diſcourſe he had with Mr* Pontæus, *Communicated by the late Sir* Theodore de Vaux, *M. D. and F. R. S.*

THe venom of the Viper in itſelf is not mortal to a robuſt and ſound body, and tho very unhappy and miſchievous accidents attend it; as a great tumour, tenſion and weight of the part, humidity, and variety of colours, phrenſies, convulſions, vomitings, yet in eight or ten days at moſt theſe accidents are over, altho the Patient may be very ill, yet he recovers again, whilſt the Poyſon having run through divers parts of the body, at laſt it always throws itſelf into the *Scrotum*, ſwelling it extreamly, cauſes a great heat and quantity of Urine, very hot and ſharp, by which it is diſcharged, this evacuation being the ordinary and moſt certain Criſis of the Diſeaſe. It is obſervable, that the perſpiration being obſtructed by the Poyſon, a man bit by a Viper, and ſwell'd up, in three or four days ſhall weigh almoſt as much more as he did before.

A ſickly perſon, under an ill habit of body, or fearful, dyes infallibly in a ſhort time of this venome, without ſpeedy help.

In the Extreme and Nervous parts near the Pulſe and Tongue, the bites are dangerous, and accidents very painful.

Freſh Vipers that have not bit, but have the bladders of the Gums full of venom, are the moſt miſchievous.

Mountebanks, to impoſe upon the people, either make their Vipers bite before they bring them out, or with a Needle ſcratch the Gums, and preſs out the poyſon.

They make us believe that a bite on the left breaſt near the heart is more mortal than elſewhere; but this is a cheat, it cauſing only a great ſwelling on all that ſide of the body, on the neck and face, which afterwards falls down (as was ſaid) into the *Scrotum*, and is evacuated by Urine.

For theſe great and painful ſwellings, the remedy is to drink the Decoction of *Marrubium*, or the Powder, taken inwardly, and a fomentation with a decoction, applying the Reſt on the place. *Ariſtolochia* is alſo a ſtrong and powerful Antidote againſt the Viper, ſo that if one be bit on the Tongue, he need only take a ſlice of this Root, heat it, and apply it, and it goes away.

Pontæus, a Chymical Mountebank, a Native of *England*, and an Apothecary by Trade, from whom I had the above-mentioned obſervations, was one day accidentally bit by a freſh Viper on his right wriſt, he thought it would have killed him. One of the greateſt pains he ſuffered was, an almoſt inſupportable tenſion of the palm of his hand.

He compoſed his Antiode of extract of Juniperberries, drawn with a Decoction of Roots of round

Ari-

Ariſtolcchia of *Succiſa*, *Marrubium Album*, Flowers of Brimſtone and of White Vitriol.

For Poyſons not corroſive, ſuch as thoſe of Animals and Vegetables, and even for the Plague itſelf, which he believes he can cure by the ſame Remedy, he makes uſe of no Vitriol; but if the Poyſon be ſublimate, which of itſelf excites vomiting, he adds Vitriol, not in a proportion to vomit, as a Drachm, but only a Scruple or half a Drachm, the vomiting being aſſiſted by the corroſive Poyſon itſelf.

To encreaſe the value of his Antidote with the people, when the Experiment is made on Dogs. To that Dog which they would have dye of the bite of the Viper, he gives with the Antidote a quarter of a *Nux Vomica*, not powdered, only cut in bits, and the next day the Dog dyes; if it were powdered, the Dog would dye in half an hour.

He ſays, *Nux Vomica* is ſo called by contraries, for it never vomits, but ſhuts up the ſtomach, and contracts the nerves by its poyſon.

To preſerve the Dogs alive, you muſt give them in the Antidote or any thing elſe, 3 or 4 grains of Sublimate, which immediately ſets them a vomiting, and ſo ſaves them alive.

He offers to take all ſorts of Poyſons, even Corroſives, after an ordinary meal; and for a tryal of skill he refuſes them not on an empty ſtomach.

He much eſteems *Morſus Diaboli*, *Succiſa*, or Devils bit, againſt all ſorts of Poyſons.

He laughs at the Poyſon of a Toad, which he ſays has none at all, no more than a Frog; and affirms he has eat ſeveral without any miſchief.

His Sugar, or Remedy for Worms in Children, is 15 grains of *Mercurius dulcis*, with five grains of Scamony, and two or three times as much Sugar, made up in Lozenges.

He ſays, that this doſe, which in *France* purges grown perſons, does nothing in *England* on thoſe above 15 years old, and ought to be augmented.

His *Mercurius Dulcis* is made without Vitriol, which tho good, is yet corroſive; he takes only Aſhes with the decrepitated Salt.

The manner of the acting of the Vipers poyſon is thus. In about ¾ of an hour a Syncope or ſwooning ſeizes them with trembling and convulſions, tingling of the ears, and frequently deafneſs for a moment; next as it were a white ſail comes afore their eyes, which ſoon vaniſhes; on the place of the bite a ſwelling riſes at firſt of the bigneſs of a Pea, which grows as big as a Bean or Nut, and encreaſing, enlarges itſelf over the neighbouring parts to a very conſiderable Tumour, and ſtretching of the fleſh, which grows ædematrous, and by little and little falls into the *Scrotum*, and leaves the part black, blue and yellow.

It makes as it were bags in the skin, which feel heavy when you walk, as if fill'd with Quickſilver.

Do what you will the Poyſon will have its courſe, and is uſually three days before it comes to the heighth, and as long abating.

For theſe great ſwellings and ſtretching of the parts, a Fomentation and Cataplaſm is made with Marrubium, *Tapſus Barbatus*, and Agrimony.

The Gall of the Viper is no ways venemous, and *Pontæus* ſays he uſually gives it without any ill effect, or trouble but its bitterneſs; all the Poyſon is in the liquor in the Gums, which is yellow like Oyl, of which you may eaſily diſarm the Viper.

The Viper is the moſt venemous of Serpents, the Aſp is but a ſpecies of the Viper. The *Napellus* is a very dangerous Poyſon, acting by its acrimony, you muſt take a great quantity of it; it burns the throat extremely, as does Allum, but it is cured by the Antidote.

Crude

Crude Antimony does nothing if attack'd by the Antidote.

The moſt miſchievous of all poyſons is Opium, of which having given an exceſſive quantity to his Servant, at firſt he had Convulſions, then ſtrange vomitings, not able to let any thing go down into his ſtomach, a ſleepineſs follow'd, all which time they kept him awake as much as poſſible, at laſt all of a ſudden he grew well, and called for Victuals.

Succiſa or Devils Bit is excellent for Poyſons, eſpecially the Plague; and it is obſervable, that it is ſo powerful a ſudorific, that laying the ſick perſon, whether of the Plague, or other malignant Fever, on a Bed of that Herb moderately hot, he ſhall ſweat till they take him off, and much more if he drinks of the decoction or juice of the Herb, which in Summer they take all, and in Winter of the Root only.

He ſays, that for the Dropſie, after all other things, one of the beſt Remedies in the world is to take *Morſus Diaboli*, and put it over the fire in a dry Kettle, that it may wet it only with its own juice; and of this to apply a quantity to the Belly and Reins of the Patient, covering him up warm, and ſo provoke ſweat, which will come away in great quantity, and may be maintained according to the ſtrength of the Patient and exigency of the caſe.